

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 12 are amended; claims 13-22 are cancelled; and claims 1-12 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Applicant's own admission in view of Sandhu. Applicant has amended claim 1, from which claims 2-5 depend, and believes that such amendments place all of claims 1-5 in condition for allowance.

Applicant's amendments to claim 1 clarify that the recited method forms supporting collars extending around individual capacitor bottom plates, with such supporting collars being interconnected with one another. The amendments to claim 1 are supported by the originally-filed application at, for example, Figs. 16 and 17, and the text of paragraph 0032 which specifies that the various collars are continuous with one another to form a matrix which braces all capacitor bottom plates. Accordingly, the amendment to claim 1 does not comprise "new matter".

Amended claim 1 is believed allowable over the Examiner's cited references for at least the reason that the references do not suggest or disclose the recited supporting collars extending around individual capacitor bottom plates and being interconnected with one another. Applicant therefore requests formal allowance of claim 1 in the Examiner's next action.

Since claims 2-5 depend from claim 1, claims 2-5 are believed allowable for at least the reasons for which claim 1 is allowable.

The Examiner indicates that claims 6-8 contain allowable subject matter, but objects to such claims for depending from the rejected claim 1. Applicants' amendments to claim 1 are believed to overcome the rejections to claim 1 for the reasons discussed above, and Applicant therefore believes that such amendments also overcome the Examiner's objections to claims 6-8. Applicant therefore requests allowance of claims 6-8 in the Examiner's next action.

Claims 9-12 are indicated to contain allowable subject matter, but stand objected to for depending from claim 1. Applicant notes that claims 9-12 do not depend from claim 1. Rather, claim 9 is an independent claim, and claims 10-12 depend from claim 9. Applicant therefore believes that the Examiner's objection to claims 9-12 was in error, and that claims 9-12 are in condition for allowance.

For the reasons discussed above, claims 1-12 are believed to be allowable over the cited art, and to be in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner's next action be a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 20, 2005

By: 

David G. Latwesen, Ph.D.
Reg. No. 38,533